

8 (i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-  
existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the  
10 value exchange system; and

(ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;  
12 and

(c) at the value exchange system:

14 (i) generating a notification of said value exchange transaction;

(ii) sending said notification to the second user; and

16 (iii) allocating said value between said first account and a second  
account associated with the second user.

18  
2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
20 registering the second user with the value exchange system if not already  
registered.  
22

3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged  
24 between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the first user to the  
second user.

26  
4. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged  
28 between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the second user to the  
first user.

30  
5. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged  
32 between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user as a  
redeemable voucher.

34  
6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein said redeemable voucher is  
36 redeemable by the second user by selecting an electronic link provided to the second  
user.  
38

7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein the redeemable voucher  
40 includes an electronic advertisement.

42 8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged  
between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user through a debit  
44 card.

46 9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged  
between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user in the form of  
48 a web certificate, and wherein the method further comprises:

transferring said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user  
50 from the second user to a third user.

52 10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier  
is a telephone number.

54 11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier  
56 is an electronic mail address.

58 12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving a value  
exchange transaction comprises:

60 initiating a value exchange involving a second user on a mobile client device of  
said first user;

62 establishing a connection between the first user and the value exchange system;  
and

64 transmitting said value exchange to the system.

66 13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 12, wherein said initiating a value  
exchange transaction comprises establishing a communication link between the first  
68 user's mobile computing device and a second user's mobile client device.

70 14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value exchange  
transaction is received from the first user through a mobile communication device.

72

15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
74 communication device is a personal digital assistant.

76 16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
communication device is a telephone.

78

17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
80 communication device is a two-way pager.

82 18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein said value exchange  
transaction is received from the mobile communication device through a wireless  
84 network.

86 19. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
communication device is a disconnectable device.

88

20. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting said  
90 value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user from a first form to a  
second form.

92

21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said first form is a first  
94 currency and said second form is a second currency.

96 22. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the form of said value to  
be exchanged between the first user and the second user depends on the pre-existing  
98 identifier.

100 23. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising holding said

102 value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user in escrow with an  
escrow party until said value exchange transaction is completed.

104 24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating (b),  
106 (c) and (d) for a second value exchange transaction between the second user and a third  
user.

108 25. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein an asymmetric  
cryptographic scheme is applied to secure said value exchange transaction.

110

yp1 112 26. (Twice Amended) A method of facilitating an exchange of value  
between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, comprising:

114 (a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a  
second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction  
system and the instruction includes:

116 (i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed  
transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user  
118 independently of the distributed transaction system; and

120 (ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second  
user;

122 (b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed  
transaction system;

(c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and

124 (d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user within  
the distributed transaction system.

126

128 27. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is an  
electronic mail address.

130 28. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is a  
telephone number.

132

29. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said instruction is  
134 received through a mobile communication device operated by the first user.

136 30. (Twice Amended) A method of facilitating a financial transaction  
between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial services system, the  
138 method comprising:

(a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;  
140 (b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange  
request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said  
142 financial transaction request includes:

4b1 (i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said  
144 financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify  
the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the  
146 financial services system; and

(ii) an amount of the financial exchange;  
148 (c) generating and sending a notification of said financial exchange request  
from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and

150 (d) within the distributed financial service system, allocating said amount of  
said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

152

31. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing  
154 identifier is an electronic mail address.

156 32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing  
identifier is a telephone number.

158

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
160 (c') registering the second user with the distributed financial services system  
before allocating said amount of said financial exchange.

162

34. (Once Amended) A value exchange system for exchanging value  
164 between multiple users, comprising:  
a database configured to store information concerning registered users of the  
166 value exchange system and details of transactions conducted by the registered users;  
a synchronization server configured to receive a first value exchange transaction  
168 from a client device operated by a first party, wherein said first value exchange  
transaction involves a second party identified by the first party with an electronic mail  
170 address; and  
a communication server configured to:  
172 notify the second party of said first value exchange transaction using said  
electronic mail address; and  
174 receive a connection from the second party and register the second party if  
not already registered.

35. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a financial  
178 server configured to interact with a financial institution to access value to facilitate said  
first value exchange transaction.

36. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a security  
182 server configured to generate a digital identity certificate that may be used to authenticate  
the first party.

37. (Unchanged) The system of claim 36, wherein said security server is  
186 further configured to authenticate a digital transaction certificate that may be used to  
authenticate said value exchange transaction.

38. CANCEL

39. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing  
192 instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method  
of facilitating a value exchange between multiple users in a distributed value exchange

194 system without requiring a user to initiate a communication to another user, the method comprising:

196 (a) registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;

198 (b) receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:

200 (i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the value exchange system; and

202 (ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;

204 and

(c) at the value exchange system:

206 (i) generating a notification of said value exchange transaction;

(ii) sending said notification to the second user; and

208 (iii) allocating said value between said first account and a second account associated with the second user.

210

40. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating an exchange of value between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, the method comprising:

(a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction system and the instruction includes:

218 (i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user independently of the distributed transaction system; and

220 (ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;

222 (b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed transaction system;

- 226 (c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and  
(d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user within  
the distributed transaction system.

228

41. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing  
230 instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of  
facilitating a financial transaction between a first user and a second user through a  
232 distributed financial services system, the method comprising:

- (a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;  
234 (b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange  
request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said  
236 financial transaction request includes:

431 (i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said  
238 financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify  
the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the  
240 financial services system; and

(ii) an amount of the financial exchange;  
242 (c) generating and sending a notification of said financial exchange request  
from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and

244 (d) within the distributed financial service system, allocating said amount of  
said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

246

42. (Unchanged) A system for facilitating the transfer of value from  
248 one user to another user, comprising:

means for receiving a value transfer request from a value provider, wherein said  
250 value transfer request comprises:

an electronic mail address of a value receiver; and  
252 a first value to be transferred from the value provider to the value receiver;  
means for transferring said first value from a first account associated with the  
254 value provider to a second account associated with the value receiver; and  
means for notifying the value receiver of said value transfer;



256 wherein the value receiver is identifiable, for purposes of said value transfer, only  
258 by said electronic mail address.

258

43. (Once Amended) A method of transferring value, comprising:  
260 receiving a connection from a registered user of a value transfer system;  
receiving from the registered user a request to execute a transfer to an  
262 unregistered party, wherein the unregistered party is identified only by an electronic mail  
address, the request comprising:

264 said electronic mail address of the unregistered party; and  
a first value to be transferred to the unregistered party;  
266 sending notification of said transfer from said value transfer system to the  
unregistered party via electronic mail;

431 268 registering the unregistered party, wherein said registering comprises creating an  
account for the unregistered party; and

270 at the value transfer system, transferring said first value from the registered user  
to the unregistered user.

272

44. (Once Amended) A method of transferring value, comprising:  
274 receiving a connection from a first user of a value transfer system;  
receiving from the first user a request to execute a value transfer to a second user,  
276 the request comprising:

an electronic mail address of the second user; and  
278 a first value to be transferred to the second user; and  
sending a notification of said value transfer from said value transfer system to the  
280 second user via electronic mail;

wherein said electronic mail address is sufficient for said value transfer system to  
282 transfer said first value from an account of the first user to an account associated with the  
second user.

284

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said registering the first  
286 user comprises creating said first account.

288

46. (New)

The method of claim 45, wherein said receiving comprises  
said registering.

290

47. (New)

The method of claim 1, wherein said allocating comprises:  
creating said second account; and  
registering the second user.

292

432  
cont'd